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Instytut Organizacji i Zarządzania
Wydział Bezpieczeństwa, Logistyki i Zarządzania
Wojskowa Akademia Techniczna
w Warszawie

Institute of Organization and Management
Faculty of Security, Logistics and Management
Military University of Technology
in Warsaw

The impact of migration on demographic structure and security in Germany

Wpływ migracji na strukturę demograficzną i bezpieczeństwo Niemiec

Bartosz Kozicki

Military University of Technology, Warsaw, Poland
bartosz.kozicki@wat.edu.pl; ORCID: 0000-0001-6089-952X

Abstract:

Research objectives and hypothesis/research questions

The article addresses the research problem: what impact does migration have on demographic structure of Germany, and how can national security be maintained in this context? The aim of the study is to conduct a multidimensional comparative analysis of the impact of migration on demographic structure of Germany and security. The study hypothesizes that migrants positively influence the country's demographic structure by mitigating unfavorable trends related to population aging and the negative birth-death gap, thus ensuring national security by increasing national income and securing the workforce.

Research methods

The research method applied in the elaboration is source analysis, including inference techniques.

Main results

The study indicates that the largest age groups in Germany are those between approximately 50 and 70 years old, meaning that a significant portion of the population is approaching or has already been in retirement age. The difference between births and deaths was negative during the period under study and worsened year by year: from -212,428 in 2020 to a record -335,217 in 2023. A slight improvement was noted in 2024 (-330,641), but the demographic imbalance was still incredibly significant. Between 2018 and 2024, Germany recorded a significant influx of migrants, totaling over 3.8 million during that period. The vast majority of migrants were young people, primarily aged 15 to 40, with a significant concentration in the 20-35 age group. Such an age distribution brings many potential benefits and is a principal factor in stabilizing the aging population, low fertility and labour shortages, and thus affects the security of the state.

Implications for theory and practice

Migration policy in Germany should be far-reaching, flexible, controlled, and sustainable. It is not about unconditional "opening of borders", but about pursuing a wise, realistic, and long-term strategy that combines humanitarian aid with the interests of the state and society. Criticism should not be directed at the concept of migration itself, but rather at its specific flaws and shortcomings, which can and should be addressed.

Keywords: migration, demography, German family policy, security, federal states

Abstrakt:***Cel badań i hipotezy/pytania badawcze***

W artykule sformułowano problem badawczy: jaki wpływ na strukturę demograficzną Niemiec ma migracja oraz w jaki sposób zapewnić utrzymanie bezpieczeństwa państwa w tym kontekście? Cel badań to przeprowadzenie wielowymiarowej analizy porównawczej wpływu migracji na strukturę demograficzną i bezpieczeństwo Niemiec. W opracowaniu postawiono hipotezę badawczą: przypuszcza się, że migranci wpływają pozytywnie na strukturę demograficzną kraju, łagodząc niekorzystne tendencje związane ze starzeniem się społeczeństwa i ujemną różnicą narodzin i zgonów, a tym samym zapewniają utrzymanie bezpieczeństwa państwa w aspekcie zwiększania dochodu narodowego i zapewnienia siły roboczej.

Metody badawcze

W pracy zastosowano metodę badawczą w postaci analizy źródłowej, w tym technikę wnioskowania.

Główne wyniki

W opracowaniu wskazano, że najliczniejsze grupy wiekowe w Niemczech to osoby w przedziale wiekowym od około 50 do 70 lat, co oznacza, że znaczna część populacji zbliża się do wieku emerytalnego lub już w nim pozostaje. Różnica między urodzeniami i zgonami była w badanym okresie ujemna i pogarszała się z roku na rok: z -212 428 w 2020 roku do rekordowego poziomu -335 217 w 2023 roku. W 2024 roku odnotowano nieznaczną poprawę (-330 641), jednak nadal był to bardzo wysoki ujemny bilans demograficzny. W latach 2018-2024 Niemcy zarejestrowały znaczący napływ migrantów, których liczba w tym okresie wyniosła łącznie ponad 3,8 miliona osób. Zdecydowaną większość migrantów stanowiły osoby młode, przede wszystkim w wieku od około 15 do 40 lat, z wyraźną koncentracją w grupie 20-35 lat. Taki rozkład wiekowy niesie ze sobą wiele potencjalnych korzyści i stanowi ważny czynnik stabilizujący starzenie się populacji, niską dzietność oraz niedobór siły roboczej, a tym samym wpływa na bezpieczeństwo państwa.

Implikacje dla teorii i praktyki

Polityka migracyjna Niemiec powinna być dalekosiężna, elastyczna, kontrolowana i zrównoważona. Nie chodzi o bezwarunkowe „otwieranie granic”, lecz o prowadzenie mądrej, realistycznej i długofalowej strategii, która łączy pomoc humanitarną z interesem państwa i społeczeństwa. Krytyka nie powinna dotyczyć samej idei migracji, lecz jej konkretnych błędów i niedociągnięć, które można i trzeba naprawiać.

Słowa kluczowe: migracja, demografia, polityka prorodzinna Niemiec, bezpieczeństwo, landy

Introduction

Analyzing migration data in Germany is crucial for understanding both current and future demographic challenges and for the sake of the country's long-term security (Kozicki, 2022, pp. 15-36; Latosiewicz, Kozicki, Tomaszewski, 2025, pp. 11-12). With aging of Germany population, low fertility rates, and growing demand for labour, migration is becoming a significant factor shaping the country's demographic structure. Migration data allow us to evaluate the extent to which an influx of people from abroad can fill demographic gaps, maintain the stability of the pension system, and ensure continued economic growth.

Migration also has direct and indirect consequences for the security of Germany (Kozicki, Kalwasiński, 2021; Kozicki, Mitkow, Sowa, 2021). Data analysis enables the identification of potential sources of social tension, radicalization, and increased crime. It also allows for the evaluation of the effectiveness of integration policies and counteracting social exclusion. A multidimensional approach to migration analysis, taking into account demographic, social, economic, and security aspects, allows not only for a better understanding of changing social reality in Germany but also for

the development of long-term strategies that balance the country's development needs with the need to maintain social cohesion and internal stability. The article addresses the research problem: what impact does migration have on demographic structure of Germany, and how can national security be maintained in this context? The aim of the study is to conduct a multidimensional comparative analysis of the impact of migration on demographic structure of Germany and security. The study hypothesizes that migrants positively influence the country's demographic structure by mitigating unfavorable trends related to population aging and the negative birth-death gap, thus ensuring national security by increasing national income and securing the workforce. The research method applied in the article is source analysis, including inference techniques.

1. Analysis of the literature on the subject of research

Germany consists of sixteen federal states, or *Länder* (edulider.pl, 2008). They are highly diverse in demographic, economic, and industrial terms. Each state has its own cultural, historical, and economic characteristics, but some play a key role in both population and industrial development (Lincoln, 2025). Understanding which regions have the largest population and the strongest industrial development is crucial not only for analyzing economic structure of Germany but also for evaluating its potential as a leader in the European economy (answered.pl, 2025).

The most populous state in Germany is North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), home to nearly 18 million people (Business in Silesia, 2025). That represents over one-fifth of total German population. The region, encompassing cities such as Cologne, Düsseldorf, Dortmund, and Essen, is also one of the largest industrial centers in Europe. Historically, the region's development was based on heavy industry – primarily coal mining and steel production in the famous Ruhr area (slaskie.pl, 2025). Although traditional industry has undergone transformation, North Rhine-Westphalia has remained a powerful economic center. Today, the region is a center for the chemical, energy, electronics, and logistics industries, thanks to both its dense infrastructure and its convenient location in the heart of Western Europe (deutschland.de, 2023).

The second-largest state in terms of population is Bavaria, with a population of over 13 million. Bavaria, with major centers such as Munich, Nuremberg, and Augsburg, is the heart of the German high-tech and automotive industry. Munich is home to giants such as BMW, Siemens, MAN, and Infineon. Bavaria also invests heavily in science and research, making it a key hub for innovation and technology, particularly in IT, automation, renewable energy, and biotechnology (Integreat, 2022; Travel Europe, 2025).

The third most significant region in terms of population and industry is Baden-Württemberg. Approximately 11 million people live in the state, which boasts an impressive industrial base. Companies such as Daimler (Mercedes-Benz), Bosch, and Porsche are headquartered there. The region specializes in the automotive, precision, machinery, and electronics industries. Small and medium-sized enterprises (the so-called *Mittelstand*) also play a crucial role, driving the innovative economy. Thanks to its prominent level of education, strong technical universities, and engineering tradition, Baden-Württemberg remains one of the most competitive regions in Europe (Nordschwarzwald, 2025; Bruns, 2025; career.start.bw, 2025).

Another important economic region is Hesse, with its capital in Frankfurt am Main, German financial center and home of the European Central Bank. Hesse focuses on the service sector but is also developing the chemical, pharmaceutical, and IT industries. Lower Saxony, home to approximately 8 million people, has a strong presence in the automotive industry (Volkswagen in Wolfsburg) as well as agriculture and the food industry (Ministry of Finance, 2024; Arbeitswelt, 2025).

The industrial development in those regions is driven by several factors. First, they benefit from a well-developed transport infrastructure: a network of highways, railways, ports, and airports. Second, they are attractive to investors thanks to political stability, access to a qualified workforce, and a prominent level of technology. Thirdly, the German state and regional authorities effectively support innovation, research and development – especially in the areas of industry 4.0, renewable energy and digital transformation (The Federal Government, 2008; Die Bundesregierung, 2022).

Germany is a country with a distinctly diverse demographic and economic distribution. The largest population lives in the industrialized states of North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, and Baden-Württemberg, which are also the engines of the German economy. Industry in those regions is developing dynamically thanks to long-standing traditions, a strong private sector, investments in education and research, and a favorable geographic location. Those factors mean that the greatest technological, innovative, and economic potential of Germany is concentrated there (Godlewski, 2018; Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 2025).

In 2025, German population has reached approximately 84 million (populationpyramid.net, 2025), of which the largest group is those of working age (15-64 years old) – approximately 62% of the population. The elderly (65+) now represent almost 24% of the population, while children and adolescents (0-14 years) account for just under 14%. The age median in Germany exceeds 45, making it one of the oldest societies in the world. Such a demographic structure has profound consequences: the working population is declining, the number of retirees is increasing, and the burden on the healthcare and pension systems is increasing (Frymark, 2025).

Migration plays a key role in that situation. Currently, over 13 million people in Germany have a migrant background (kresy.pl, 2025). Most migrants come from Turkey, Syria, Poland, Romania, Afghanistan, and the Balkans (Chudy, 2025).

They prefer to settle in large cities and the western and southern German states, where jobs are more readily available. Migrants come primarily for work, education, or to escape war. Germany is attractive due to its high standard of living, extensive social security system, and demand for workers, particularly in sectors such as healthcare, transportation, logistics, construction, and IT.

Although there are cases of crime among migrants, it cannot be claimed that such a group is generally aggressive. Statistical data indicate that the crime rate is not significantly higher than among the general population. A substantial proportion of migrants work legally and pay taxes, contributing to national income and economic development. Without their participation, many sectors would be unable to function. Economists estimate that migrants contribute billions of euros to the German economy annually – both directly through work and indirectly through consumption (Fürstenau, 2025).

Migration affects the demographics of people in Germany. Currently, many people are aging, and migrants help fill population gaps, particularly in the labour market. Lots of migrants work, pay taxes, and contribute to GDP.

As the number of migrants increases, the law also changes (Kacprzak, 2023). Germany is simplifying procedures for recognizing professional qualifications, reforming asylum law, and introducing solutions to support integration, such as language courses and vocational training. That sometimes causes social tensions, but it cannot be definitively stated that migrants are aggressive. Crimes occur among both migrants and German citizens. For Germany, migration is not only a solution to the demographic crisis but also an opportunity for dynamic economic development.

Overall, migration is a positive phenomenon for Germany. It supports the economy, alleviates the demographic crisis, and contributes to the diversity of society. However, its effectiveness depends on integration, education, and a well-managed migration policy.

2. Multidimensional analysis of human population and migration in Germany

The research began by outlining a pyramid of the human population in Germany in 2023, broken down into men and women by age, in Figure 1. German population pyramid shows obvious signs of advanced aging. The largest age groups are those between approximately 50 and 70, indicating that a huge portion of the population is approaching or has already been in retirement age. However, the lower part of the pyramid, encompassing children and adolescents aged 0-20, is much narrower, indicating a declining birth rate and weak generational replacement. Such a demographic pattern clearly indicates that Germany will experience population decline in the coming decades unless effective compensatory mechanisms are implemented, such as significant immigration or family-friendly policies leading to increased fertility.

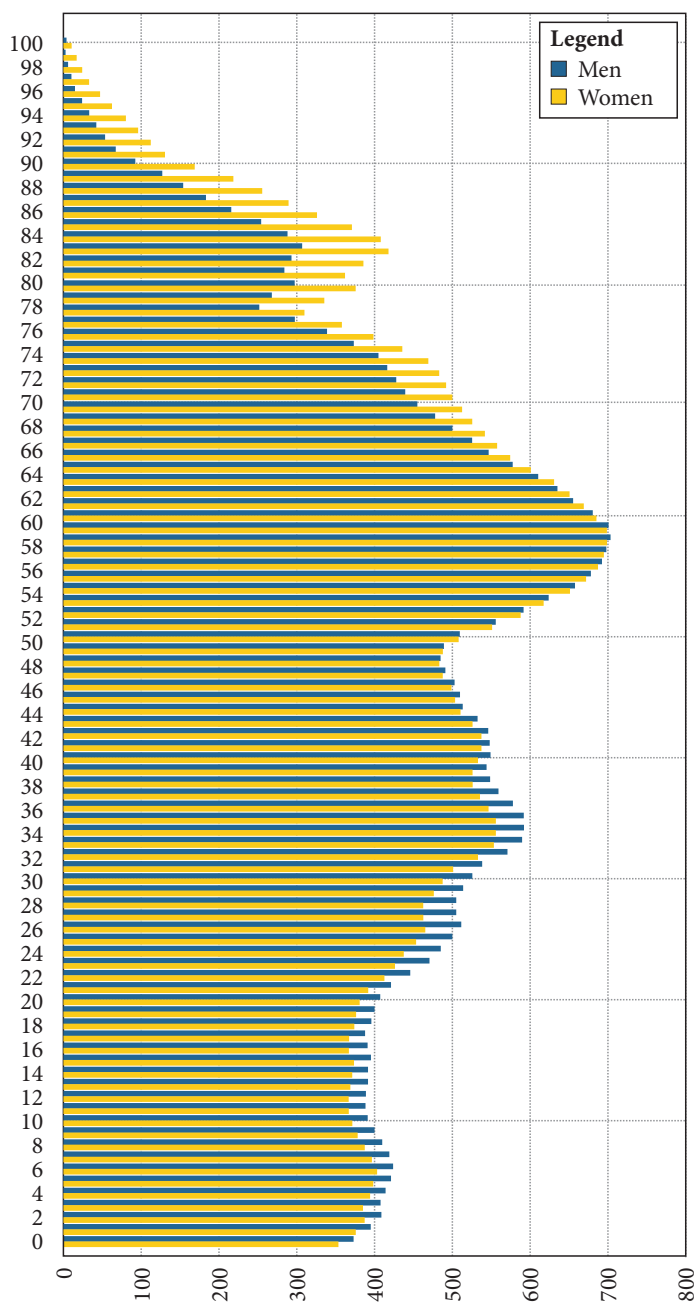


Fig. 1. Population pyramid in Germany in 2023, broken down by men and women by age, in thousands; as of July 21, 2025

Source: own study based on data obtained from the website: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2025

The consequences of such a trend will be profound and multidimensional. The labour market is already beginning to feel the effects of a shortage of skilled workers, and the problem will worsen over time. A smaller working-age population means it will be more difficult to maintain current economic productivity and growth rates (Błaszczak, 2025). Employers will be forced to automate processes, increase work flexibility, and recruit workers from abroad. At the same time, the growing number of people of retirement age puts pressure on the pension system, which operates primarily through contributions from economically active individuals. The declining ratio of contributors to beneficiaries creates the risk of financial deficits and the need to raise the retirement age or reduce benefit levels.

An aging population also poses enormous challenges for the healthcare system (Frymark, 2025). Demand for geriatric care, chronic disease management, rehabilitation, and long-term home and institutional care is growing. Not only doctors and nurses will be needed, but also caregivers for the elderly – such professions are already facing staff shortages. Public spending on health will have to increase, which, given the shrinking tax base, poses a significant challenge for the state budget. Life expectancy in Germany is also increasing.

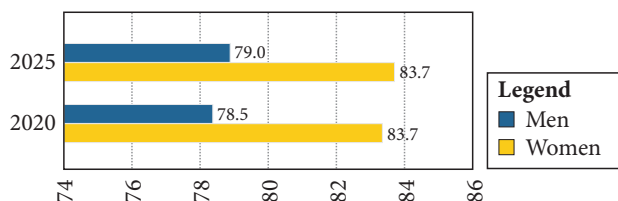


Fig. 2. Bar chart of the arithmetic mean of life expectancy of men and women in Germany in 2020 and 2025; as of July 22, 2025

Source: own study based on data obtained from the website: Durchschnittliche Lebenserwartung bei Geburt bis 2070, Destatis, 2025

The data summarized in Figure 2 indicate that in 2020, men lived an average of 78.5 years, while women lived an average of 83.4 years. By 2025, those values increased to 79 years for men and 83.7 years for women, respectively. The arithmetic mean of life expectancy for both sexes was therefore: (1) in 2020: $(78.5 + 83.4)/2 = 80.95$ years, (2) in 2025: $(79.0 + 83.7)/2 = 81.35$ years.

A clear upward trend in life expectancy can be observed for both sexes. Such an increase is due to advances in medicine, improved living conditions, healthcare, and greater public health awareness. The difference in life expectancy between women and men remains similar (approximately 4-5 years), reflecting established biological and social differences, such as lifestyle, occupational risk, and health behaviours.

Although the German family support system is one of the most developed ones in Europe, its effectiveness remains limited. To effectively combat population aging, broader measures are needed: investment in childcare infrastructure, promoting flexible working hours, support for young families in obtaining housing, and an active and well-organized migration policy.

In light of those challenges, Germany pursues a relatively comprehensive family-friendly policy to encourage family growth. The most important forms of support include: Kindergeld – a child benefit of approximately €250 per month; Elterngeld – a cash benefit for parents on parental leave, amounting to up to 67% of previous net income for a maximum of 14 months; and access to preschools and nurseries, partially financed by the state (tax-pol.pl, 2025; odzyskajkindergeld.pl, 2025). Parents can also benefit from long, protected maternity and paternity leaves, as well as tax reliefs related to raising children. Despite those solutions, Germany has remained below generational replacement level for years.

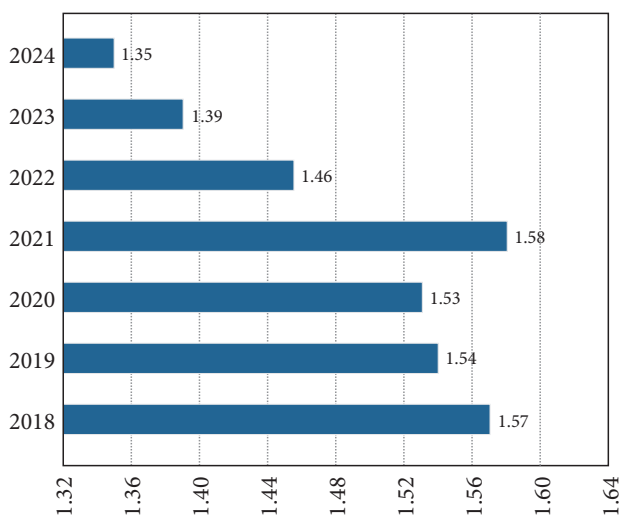


Fig. 3. Bar chart of the fertility rate in Germany, 2018-2024; as of July 21, 2025

Source: own study based on data obtained from: Federal Reserve Bank of Saint Louis, 2025

Between 2018 and 2024, the fertility rate in Germany showed a clear downward trend (see Figure 3). Initially, it remained relatively stable, from 1.57 children per woman in 2018 to 1.53 in 2020. In 2021, there was a short-lived increase to 1.58, but since 2022, a clear downward trend has been observed. The fertility rate has fallen to 1.46, and then in subsequent years to 1.39 in 2023 and a record low of 1.35 in 2024. The data point to deepening demographic challenges, which could have significant consequences for the labour market, the pension system, and long-term

socioeconomic development in Germany. It means that financial incentives alone are not enough to reverse the demographic trend. Many young people are postponing having children for economic, housing, professional, or unavailable care services reasons. In large cities, problems with the availability of nurseries and employment flexibility are particularly acute, which discourages people from starting a family.

The analysis of German population pyramid and fertility rate shows that the country is heading towards demographic decline and aging. That phenomenon will have profound consequences for the labour market, pension system, healthcare, and overall economic health. Although Germany is implementing various family-friendly instruments, their effectiveness may be insufficient without profound structural and cultural reforms that will enable young people to combine work and family life in a realistic and sustainable way.

When analyzing the German population, it is important to pay attention to births and deaths. For research purposes, Figure 4 summarizes data on the difference in births and deaths in Germany from 2020 to 2024.

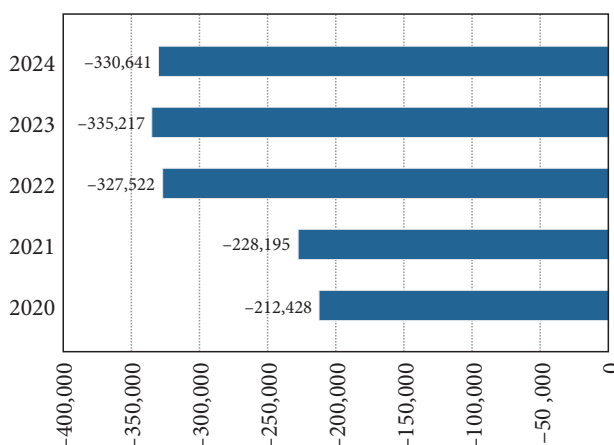


Fig. 4. Bar chart of the difference in the number of births and deaths in Germany between 2020-2024; as of July 22, 2025

Source: own study based on data obtained from: www.destatis.de, 2025

Between 2020 and 2024, Germany experienced a steady decline in the number of births and a persistently high death rate, resulting in a deepening demographic deficit. The number of births fell from 773,144 in 2020 to 677,117 in 2024, a decrease of almost 100,000 over five years. At the same time, the number of deaths, although peaking in 2022 (1,066,341), remained above one million annually throughout the period. The lowest number of deaths was recorded in 2024 (1,007,758), but still significantly exceeded the number of births.

As a result, the difference between births and deaths (natural balance) was negative throughout the period and worsened year by year: from $-212,428$ in 2020 to a record level of $-335,217$ in 2023. In 2024, a slight improvement was recorded ($-330,641$), but it was still an extremely high negative demographic balance.

The most common causes of death in Germany are circulatory system diseases and cancer. According to data from the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) for 2023, heart and vascular diseases – such as heart attacks and strokes – accounted for approximately 34% of all deaths. Malignant tumors came second, accounting for approximately 22% of deaths (Matzke, 2012). Among cancers, the most common are lung, colon, and breast cancer. Respiratory diseases, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and pneumonia, as well as complications from viral infections such as COVID-19, rank next. Neurodegenerative diseases, especially dementia, also play a significant role, particularly among the elderly. Less common but still significant ones are deaths caused by accidents, suicide, and liver disease. The structure of causes of death in Germany reflects the pattern typical of developed countries – chronic diseases, related to age, lifestyle, and longevity predominate.

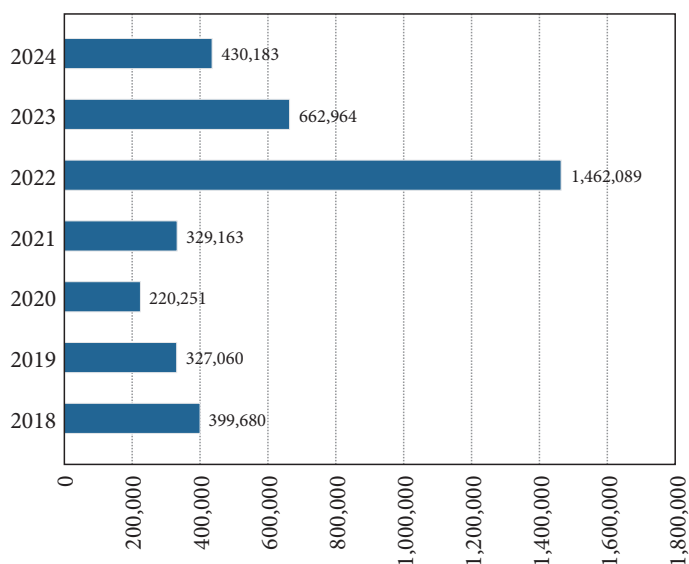


Fig. 5. Bar chart of the number of migrants remaining in Germany by year, 2018-2024; as of July 21, 2025

Source: United Nations, 2025

The analysis highlights the serious demographic challenges facing Germany, including an aging population and the need for demographic, migration, and family-friendly policies. Data on the number of migrants remaining in Germany between 2018-2024 were then analyzed. Between 2018 and 2024, Germany experienced

a significant influx of migrants, totaling over 3.8 million people during that period (see Figure 5). Annual data indicate relatively stable migration levels in the first years of the period under study – ranging from approximately 220,000 to 400,000 annually – with a strong increase in 2022, when over 4,462,089 migrants arrived in Germany. That was an unprecedented increase, driven primarily by the war in Ukraine and the opening of German borders to war refugees. Although the number of migrants declined again in subsequent years, it remains relatively high: over 662,964 in 2023 and 430,183 in 2024.

Such a scale of migration has multidimensional implications for the future of Germany. Above all, migrants positively impact the country's demographic structure, mitigating the unfavorable trends associated with an aging population and declining birth rates. Migration, particularly among young people, can therefore be a key factor in balancing those proportions and maintaining the population's potential.

The second critical area is the economy and the labour market. Germany is one of the most developed countries in the world, and its economy relies on advanced technologies, exports, and a highly skilled workforce. However, the German labour market has already faced a shortage of workers in many industries – from healthcare to construction and IT. Migrants, especially young and qualified ones, can fill this gap and contribute to maintaining the high pace of economic growth (deutschland.de, 2025). Of course, that requires effective integration programs – language learning, recognition of professional qualifications, training, and vocational education.

Migration also has a profound impact on the education system. A growing number of migrant children are enrolled in German schools and preschools. That necessitates increased funding for education, the employment of teachers with intercultural competences, and the creation of integration programs. While this may initially be a burden on the system, well-conducted migrant education brings long-term benefits – well-integrated children become full-fledged, productive members of society in the future.

In terms of national security, the mass influx of migrants poses both challenges and stereotypical social concerns. A rapid increase in the number of new arrivals can lead to logistical difficulties: housing shortages, overloaded offices, and pressure on law enforcement. There have been instances of social tension in the past, particularly when migrants come from areas with diverse cultural norms. Therefore, swift asylum procedures, effective identity verification, and preventive measures – educational, social, and legal – to prevent marginalization and radicalization are crucial. In the long term, a well-conducted migration policy not only does not threaten national security but can strengthen it by creating a more resilient, diverse society.

It is worth emphasizing, however, that the sheer number of migrants does not guarantee success. The key factors are the number of integrations, the demographic structure of migrants (age, education, motivation), and the host society's willingness to adapt.

In summary, migration between 2018 and 2024 has had and continues to have a significant impact on all key areas of the functioning of Germany: demography, the economy, education, and security. While this process poses challenges, if effectively managed, it can be a powerful tool in counteracting the effects of the demographic crisis and strengthening German international competitiveness. Therefore, investing in the integration, education, and professional activation of migrants, while ensuring social cohesion and internal security, remains a priority.

The next stage of the research involved the analysis of data on the age structure of migrants who will permanently remain in Germany in 2025, broken down by men and women (see Figure 6). An analysis of the age structure of migrants who settle in Germany each year reveals a significant demographic trend with crucial implications for the future of the state. According to the presented age pyramid, the vast majority of migrants are young people, primarily aged between 15 and 40, with a significant concentration in the 20-35 age group. That age distribution offers many potential benefits and serves as an important stabilizing factor for German society, which has long struggled with an aging population, low fertility rates, and labour shortages.

In demographic terms, the presence of young migrants is one of the most crucial factors that can counteract population decline. Germany, like many other highly developed countries, has for years recorded a fertility rate well below replacement level. As a result, the country's demographic structure is becoming increasingly "homogeneous" – with a predominance of older people over 50, and a decreasing number of young people. Migrants of working and reproductive age bring new energy and potential to this structure. Their presence can lead not only to natural population growth through immigration but also to an increase in the birth rate if the state provides appropriate conditions for starting families.

From a labour market perspective, young migrants represent a valuable resource that, if adapted appropriately, can significantly support the German economy. Many industries are already struggling with labour shortages, including healthcare, social services, construction, logistics, and IT. People aged 20 to 35 are able to quickly retrain, learn the language, and find legal employment. With appropriate integration support, they can not only fill a gap in the labour market but also contribute to innovation and economic development. Migration is therefore becoming not only a tool for saving the labour market but also a strategy for strengthening the country's international competitiveness.

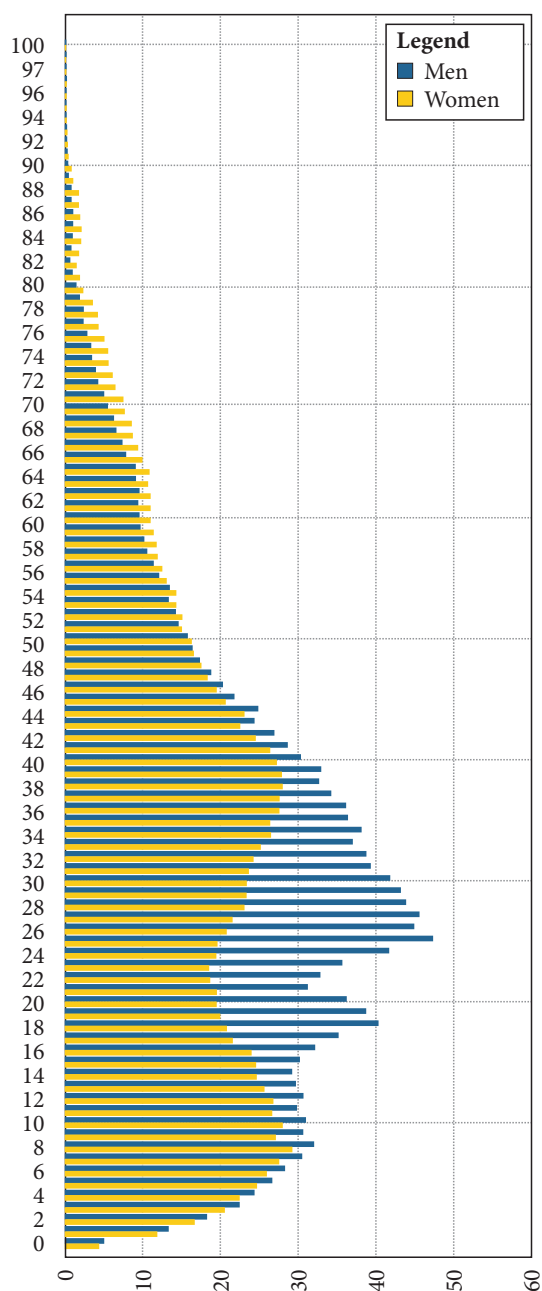


Fig. 6. Population pyramid of the age structure of migrants who have permanently remained in Germany in 2025, broken down by men and women, in thousands of people; as of July 21, 2025

Source: Migration und Integration, Destatis, 2025

At the same time, migration impacts the education system. Migrant children and youth, as well as young adults of school age, require intensive support in learning German and cultural integration. The education system must be flexible and adequately prepared to accommodate culturally diverse youth. It is necessary to increase funding for school infrastructure, employ intercultural educators, psychologists, and teachers of German as a second language. Although that initially entails additional costs for the state, the investment can yield tangible results in the long run – well-educated migrant children can fully participate in the country's economic and social life in the future, increasing its stability and innovation.

The issue of security in terms of migration is complex. Public debate often raises concerns about the mass influx of migrants, especially young men. However, it should be emphasized that origin or age alone do not constitute a threat. It is the way migration is managed that determines the social consequences. Rapid and efficient integration, identity verification, and the provision of housing, education, and employment are crucial. Neglect in these areas can lead to social exclusion, frustration, and tension. On the other hand, well-conducted integration policies strengthen social cohesion and can contribute to an increased sense of security, not only physically but also socially and economically.

Therefore, it is worth asking: should Germany implement a system of incentives to retain migrants annually? The answer is unequivocal: yes. Such a system could encompass a variety of solutions: procedural simplifications for obtaining permanent residence and citizenship, access to vocational and language training, labour market preferences, housing support, and tax reliefs for working migrants. Incentives not only increase the chances of retaining valuable individuals but also reinforce the positive message: migration is an opportunity, not a threat, if properly channeled.

The age structure of migrants settling in Germany in recent years demonstrates that migration is one of the most important tools for mitigating the demographic crisis. Young migrants support population growth, contribute to the labour market, have educational potential, and can contribute to strengthening social stability. A properly implemented migration policy based on integration, education, and incentives can make Germany not only an open and secure country but also more competitive and resilient to future challenges.

However, it should also be remembered that from 2018 to May 2025, at least eight confirmed attacks involving migrants, primarily for religious reasons, were carried out. In 2020, two particularly brutal incidents occurred: a stabbing attack in Dresden by a Syrian refugee and a car attack in Berlin by an Iraqi known for his Islamist ties. In 2021, a Somali killed three people in Würzburg, and in Neumarkt, a Palestinian stabbed train passengers. In 2023, another tragic attack occurred: in Brokstedt, a Palestinian killed two people and injured ten. In 2024, a Syrian linked to ISIS killed three people in Solingen and injured eight more. All those attacks were linked by their brutality and often the ineffectiveness of previous preventive measures by the security services.

It should be noted, however, that while the number of attacks carried out by migrants is significant and alarming, it represents only part of the overall picture of terrorist threats in Germany. At the same time, right- and left-wing extremism are also on the rise, as is the violence motivated by personal frustration or mental illness, often categorized as “lone-actor terrorism”.

Terrorist attacks remain a significant challenge to German internal security and are the subject of intense political debate, particularly in terms of further migration and integration policy.

Terrorist attacks involving migrants undoubtedly cause serious social and political tensions in Germany. They arouse fear and distrust, and raise questions about the validity of an open migration policy. However, while each act of violence should be treated with the utmost seriousness, it cannot, in itself, constitute grounds for rejecting the idea of accepting migrants as a whole.

Evaluation of data on human migration to Germany and the terrorist attacks they carry out indicates that the percentage of migrants committing terrorist acts is exceptionally low. The vast majority of those arriving in Germany are fleeing war, persecution, and poverty. They are victims, not threats. Demonizing an entire group based on the actions of individuals leads to social division, increased prejudice, and the reinforcement of extreme political narratives.

Instead of succumbing to emotion, a balanced and responsible approach is necessary. The state has a duty to ensure the security of its citizens, which means that migration policy must be closely linked to border control, effective identity verification, monitoring of individuals suspected of radicalization, and effective social integration. Migration is not a one-dimensional phenomenon; in addition to challenges, it also brings the potential: demographic, economic, and cultural.

The attacks should not, therefore, deter Germany from accepting migrants, but rather encourage the improvement of the entire system, in which those arriving from outside can become full, safe, and constructive members of society. Fear cannot be the sole advisor in politics – especially when human life and the fundamental values of democracy are at stake.

Summary

The phenomenon of migration, especially in the case of Germany as a key member of the European Union, plays a fundamental role in the analysis and evaluation of the country's security. Migration affects not only the demographic and economic structure but also the social stability, culture, and internal security of the country. In such terms, security is not merely a military or police matter; it becomes a prerequisite for the effective management of migration and building block of social trust.

The state has a constitutional obligation to protect the lives, health, and property of its citizens. Therefore, when accepting migrants, it must ensure that it can effectively verify, monitor, and integrate them, minimizing the risk of violence, radicalization, or crime. The lack of effective control mechanisms can lead to terrorist threats, as has been the case in several isolated but high-profile incidents in Germany in recent years.

Properly implemented state policy influences social acceptance of migration. If citizens feel that the state is in control and responding appropriately to potential threats, they are more likely to support migration policies. Otherwise, xenophobic sentiments, the radicalization of public debate, and support for extremist groups may increase, weakening the democratic foundations of society.

Security is the foundation of integration. Migrants who arrive in a country with strong and transparent legal structures have a greater chance of adapting more quickly to the rules of social life. Security, understood not only as the absence of violence but also as institutional stability and predictability, fosters educational, professional, and cultural processes, which are crucial for effective integration.

State security also has symbolic and strategic dimensions. As an open, democratic, and prosperous country, Germany is becoming a natural migration destination (Domagała-Pereira, 2025). Its responsibility lies not only in responding to current challenges but also in setting standards for the rest of Europe. Effective border protection, asylum control, and the fight against radicalization and cross-border crime are not only internal issues, but also part of European and international security policy.

The aim of this article was achieved. A multidimensional comparative analysis of the impact of migration on demographic structure of Germany and security was conducted. The positive impact of migrants on German demographics stems primarily from their younger age and higher fertility rate compared to the German population. As a result, they support intergenerational balance, increase the number of economically active people, and reduce the burden on the pension system. Their presence in the labour market not only alleviates labour shortages in key sectors of the economy but also contributes to national income growth, which in turn strengthens socioeconomic stability and national security.

The above-mentioned findings are based on research. The article indicates that the largest age groups in Germany are those between approximately 50 and 70 years old, meaning that a significant portion of the population is approaching or has already been in retirement age. The difference between births and deaths was negative during the period under study and worsened year by year: from -212,428 in 2020 to a record -335,217 in 2023. A slight improvement was noted in 2024 (-330,641), but the demographic imbalance was still incredibly significant. Between 2018 and 2024, Germany recorded a significant influx of migrants, totaling over 3.8 million during that period. The vast majority of migrants were young people, primarily aged 15 to 40, with a significant concentration in the 20-35 age group.

Such an age distribution brings many potential benefits and is a principal factor in stabilizing the aging population, low fertility and labour shortages, and thus affects the security of the state.

In summary, migration policy in Germany should be far-reaching, flexible, controlled, and sustainable. It is not about unconditional “opening of borders”, but about pursuing a wise, realistic, and long-term strategy that combines humanitarian aid with the interests of the state and society. Criticism should not be directed at the concept of migration itself, but rather at its specific flaws and shortcomings, which can and should be addressed.

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